

Beds Buzz

Autumn 2006



Girlguiding

Bedfordshire



Kathy at Arts
Whatever!

Autumn Arrives!

Didn't summer fly! September, and the start of the new Guiding year, always seems to come round so quickly. I hope everyone who went to camp over the summer was lucky with the weather.

I'm sure there are lots of exciting activities planned for this term- with the Big Gig bound to be a major highlight for many. Please do send in your photos and event reports to Bedsbuzz and our website - it's great to see how much fun is going on across our county ...and don't forget that you can always access the mailshot on the website in the Guides login area.

Kathy

Kathy Carroll, County Commissioner

Arts Whatever 2006 Hautbois

A personal view by Charlotte Wylam

A certain apprehension, not least about the weather, accompanied my arrival at Hautbois. However, I was immediately placed at the top of the main field overlooking the huge marquee which looked truly festive against a backdrop of tall poplars and I began to feel excited at the prospect of what was to come.

Hautbois is a haven for wildlife its big trees and proximity to The Broads bring ducks, geese and, by night, owls. There were also armies of ants rapidly invading the unsuspecting camper's tent. I regretted not having a Trangia to cook on as my tiny camping gaz topped and my spaghetti spilled onto the grass. Little shelter from the rain was afforded by a makeshift awning and very ramshackle was our camp compared to the others I saw who had come prepared. Luckily the pub in Coltishall was not far to walk.

The weather continued windy with drizzle for most of Friday and Saturday but the activities on offer were so varied and interesting it didn't matter. Arts and crafts took pride of place in the marquee and music in the house so dance and drama had to rough it outdoors. As about 50% of the 250 Guides were participating in these two activities at any one time, it was an impressive sight. I helped with drama which was ably run by a just-qualified drama student and ex-Guide, Anna. At the same time I watched Emma, also a recently qualified student of dance, get sixty Guides to stomp the grass and strut in their wellies to the repeated strains of "Thriller". They loved it.

I cannot fault the organisation which appeared very smooth. In the frontline, Jan Mackenzie and Daphne Impney ensured the activities in the marquee ran on time. The musical evenings were led energetically by Marion Prior, Sue Mann and Mary Gentry. Behind the scenes Wendy Rider and Heather Runacres as well as Barbara Kippax must have attended to the minutiae which we all took for granted.

As a first-timer at a Guide Camp, I was fascinated by the rigor with which groups were dispatched to wood patrol, latrines and to do their bedding rolls. Equally impressive was the way they were marshalled by their Guiders on time and in an orderly manner. When engaged in the Arts activities they lost no time in having a go at all on offer, taking on board suggestions and producing plenty of ideas of their own. It is always a privilege to see youngsters perform in front of an audience and the Talent Show on the Sunday night was a joy to watch. Individuals and groups pieces were interspersed with communal singing. The highlight of the Camp for me, though, was the camp fire, the like of which I had never witnessed before. Seasoned Guiders, some clad in badge encrusted blankets giving them a regal air, led the singing of old favourites as well as the brand new song Sue Mann wrote especially for the event, "Whatever the weather"- very appropriate, as it turned out. On Monday, we left happy and with dry tents under a blazing sun to drive back to home comforts and our mundane existence. To go to camp is to shrug off the dependence we all have these days on technology, to live something 100% absorbing for a short time and feel part of something unique.



Live performance of 'Thriller'

Arts Whatever Next!

Shillington and Southwold Guides teamed up for a week camping that linked Arts Whatever with their bi-annual camp. Twenty seven Guides and six leaders made their home in Limepits at Hautbois for a fun filled week.

Despite the weather and rising damp the camp was voted a great success - even by the leaders who went to bed on two nights dressed in all their clothes, woolly socks and thermal hats!

The arts weekend gave everyone a chance to take part in a choir, an orchestra, dancing and crafts. The second half of the week was filled with learning to run the camp and all the duties that go with it, plus the fun of abseiling, climbing, zip wire, night hiking, raft building and a trip to Wroxham on the narrow gauge railway.

We went home tired and cold but exhilarated by all that we had achieved in a short time - we had laughed our socks off and the Guides had made lasting friendships and had their fair share of riotous laughter. What struck me most was that not one person complained about the weather and everyone agreed that they all had enjoyed a fantastic time. I can't wait for the next one!

Diane Butler

Ambassador for Girlguiding Bedfordshire & BB Editor

Argentinian Visit

The January meeting of the Chairmen of Bedfordshire Trefoil Guilds was visited by a guest from Argentina.

Juan Francisco Dávila who represents Scout and Guide Adults of Argentina paid a visit to learn more about how the Trefoil Guild works in the UK.



Sight Concern Bedfordshire

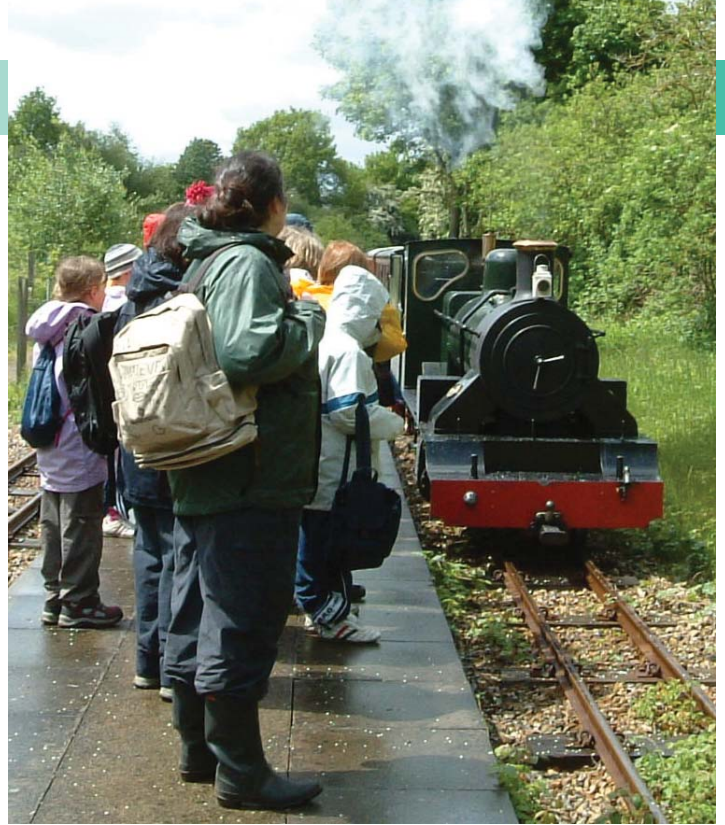
is a local charity working for the visually impaired. Wendie Lovatt is willing to visit units to talk to the girls about this disability and show them some of the equipment that is used by visually impaired people.

Tel 01234 311555

email: s.people@sightconcern.org.uk

BEDFORDSHIRE SINGING CIRCLE

St Marks Church, Bedford - Monday 27th November 7:45pm
Haverings, Luton - Tuesday 16th January 2007 8:00pm



Bedfordshire High Sheriff Awards

In the Nov/Dec mail shot last year, I read about the High Sheriff of Bedfordshire Awards. These recognise unsung heroes who give their skills, services and their time unstintingly without financial payment or gain, seeking no praise or acknowledgement for what they do. I thought that these comments applied to my wife, Anne, for what she does within Girlguiding Bedfordshire. She runs two Brownie Packs, she is also a District Assistant, Assistant County Badge Secretary and operates the East Bedfordshire Division Trading Depot.

I nominated Anne and we heard nothing more until February when my wife received an invitation to the presentation evening at the Members Suite, County Hall, Bedford. We were greeted by the High Sheriff then the presentation commenced. Each nominee was called up and a précis of their nomination was read out. Then they were presented with an illuminated certificate. Following a musical interlude by the Sharnbrook Upper School String Quartet they announced the area winners who were each presented with an engraved cup. When they got to the East Beds area, Anne Maynard was announced as the area winner.

Anne went on to attend the Winners Award ceremony supported by friends from Girlguiding Bedfordshire. This time she was presented with an embroidered facsimile of the High Sheriff's badge. The musical interlude was given by the Wooton Upper School Choir, who were amazing. The County winner was announced but this time Anne was not so lucky, the shield went to a Mr & Mrs Ball from South Beds.

Listening to the other nomination we realised just how much Guiders give to the community. We all know Guiders who do that bit more and this is nice way of showing our appreciation. So, if the new High Sheriff continues with these awards I think that all Districts, Divisions and even County Teams should look at their Guiders and what they do for Guiding. Get an application form and send in a nomination. This year there was only one entry from Girlguiding Bedfordshire, the rest were other community activities, next time lets have some more from Girlguiding Bedfordshire and show what we do for the community.

Adrian Maynard

BUZZING AROUND.....



BBQ and thank you...

Mid Beds Guiders and Unit Helpers held a BBQ and get together at Hetley House, Flitwick in July. 20 leaders met up following Friday night Brownies (much to the surprise of the departing girls who were amazed that their leaders could meet up to have fun too!) During the evening a special "thank you" was said to Sylvia James who has been the Division contact for the past three years and who was responsible for getting this event off the ground. Thanks were also given to Shirley Bell for her secretarial support for the Division. Although the evening had to finish off indoors due to the cold, a great time was had by all.

Jane Thompson

Mid Beds Div Com Designate

Brownies Holiday in Church

3rd Potton Brownies went on an April pack holiday at The Chellington Centre. It is the Diocesan Youth Centre which is a redundant church. The Centre is completely refurbished to a very high standard and sleeps thirty in small bedrooms.

There is a small camp fire circle in the grounds and the Harrold Odell Country Park is only a mile walk across the fields. We highly recommend it even though it is a little more expensive than BedsGuiding houses.

For more details visit www.chellington.org.uk

Katherine Sulch
3rd Potton Brownies

BP Awards for 3rd Brickhill

Five Guides from 3rd Brickhill achieved their BP Awards and three of them had them presented by Kathy Carroll at the last meeting of term. This was followed by the inevitable food and drinks... Also at the meeting Carrie Lake completed the last clause for her Queens Guide by discussing her project on homelessness with the Guides.

Gill Lake



3rd Henlow Guides

On 20th May, 3rd Henlow Guides set off on their own mini version of the Playtex Moonwalk. Wearing either bras over the top of their T-shirts or pink t-shirts they braved the wind and the rain undaunted in their determination to raise money for breast cancer research. After being dropped off at Meppershall they walked over fields and roads to Shefford where they stopped off for a welcome bag of chips before heading towards Clifton. The rain held off although it was muddy and wet underfoot.

They were welcomed warmly at the Engineers Arms where they rattled their pink collecting bucket at the unsuspecting but generous customers. Then off to Raynsford

School for a sleepover in the school hall! Undeclared by their long walk they stayed up 'til 2.30am chatting and laughing and having a good time. A cheque for around £100 will be sent to the charity on their behalf. With thanks to Kevin and Claire at The Engineers Arms and also Raynsford Lower School for allowing them to use the school for the "after party".

Kate Briscoe

Picture Gallery

3rd Brickhill Guides & 1st Brickhill Brownies joined forces to go on a chip 'run' on a balmy Monday evening in July - lots of chips and sweets were consumed. We were joined by several parents and a dog, but also enjoyed a healthy walk!



3rd Biggleswade Brownies enjoying the District Adventure at Shepreth Wildlife Park.



1st Wootton Brownies joined the BT Giant Sleepover in June, aimed at breaking the Guinness World Record for the most children sleeping over in one night. Lindsey Raven from the Orangutan foundation joined us for fun and games teaching the girls about the plight of this endangered species. Part of the fun was making a collage of a rain forest using recycled materials. In the morning the girls took part in the Aquafresh minty mouth challenge and Sophie Bichener drew this wonderful picture of the girls breaking the Record. As well as breaking two world records, £225 was raised for Childline.



Rainbows, Brownies and guides from Ampt Hill Girlguiding looking fantastic as they walked through Ampt Hill during this year's parade with the 'Circus' theme. They impressed the judges so much that Ampt Hill Girlguiding was awarded the trophy for best group on the parade. Well done everyone!

Send your articles and comments to:
BedsBuzz

Editor - Diane Butler • 3 The Old School • Church Street
Shillington Hitchin • Herts SG5 3LJ
email: diane@collingwood-design.co.uk

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Thanks for all your articles and pictures - keep sending and I will print everything I can fit in!

South Beds Division Social News



South Beds Division Guiders recently spent a sunny summer evening playing croquet kindly organised by Linleighbridge District. You may think this would be far too gentle a pursuit for South Beds Guiders but read on ! We started the evening warming up with static cricket, a seemingly harmless target game but already you could see the competitive

spirit of the players. The organisers decided that with the two teams level on one game each we wouldn't risk a decider.

Anyway on to the croquet, we started off with some coaching and then split into two groups to play. At first we thought the aim was to get the ball through the hoop first and thereby win the game, however... with some more coaching on the finer points, including 'jump balls', we suddenly realised that the aim was not simply to try to win, it is first and foremost to stop other people winning. We were in our element, blasting balls to the side of the lawn, blocking the hoops, even snookers ! We had a great time and certainly learned who had the real killer instinct and who was a born leader.

We finished off the evening with a game of giant Jenga and coffee and chocolate biscuits in the garden. Our thanks go to Peter and Irene, who allow play on their croquet lawn in return for a donation to charity, to Chris Hopton our very own croquet expert and Linleighbridge District.

Debbie Docherty

Rainbows are Cheeky Monkeys

1st Strathmore Rainbows took part in the Cheeky Monkeys Marathon Challenge, for Children with Leukemia. The 'Marathon' was to sing 26 songs non-stop. Parents, grandparents and friends came to a special open evening where they sang their songs. Certificates were given out to all the Rainbows and money raised in sponsorship totalled £305. The evening was very warm and the ice cream and cold drinks served afterwards were much appreciated. The Rainbows did extremely well in achieving their 'Marathon' well done Strathmore Rainbows.

Bedfordshire Trefoil Guilds

Members of all the Trefoil Guilds in Bedfordshire are delighted to be invited to submit a regular report to BedsBuzz and we hope you will enjoy reading about our activities.

Doubtless, you have heard of Trefoil Guild even if you are not too sure who we are and what we do. I will try to give you some idea of what Trefoil is all about.

The Trefoil Guild is part of the Guide Association but has a separate constitution and independent finances. Members are ladies over 18 years of age who wish to retain contact with Guiding friends past and present. Men may now be admitted although they are still pretty few and far between. Guiders are welcomed into the Guild as Associate Members.

Guilds hold regular meetings and have a varied programme. As the majority of Guilders are ex-Guiders they are very happy to help with units and events. Badge testing is one of the areas in which members can help and also with revels, competitions, camps among many other things. If you need help you only have to contact your nearest Guild and they will be delighted to help. Trefoil Guild members may help on an occasional basis but are NOT permitted to help on a weekly basis.

The Guilds in Bedfordshire are located in Bedford, Biggleswade, Dunstable, Henlow, Harlington, Leighton Buzzard, Luton (Three Guilds) and Woburn. We are looking to increase our numbers and would be pleased to welcome anyone (already in Guiding or not) to our ranks. Details of contacts for each Guild are at the back of the current County Directory or 'phone me on 01582 661769 or email vcousins@supanet.com.

Look out for us at County Training Day and other County events. Come and chat to us. What are you waiting for? We look forward to talking to you.

Valerie Cousins

Chairman - Bedfordshire Trefoil Guilds

Girlguiding Bedfordshire Celebrates The Queen's 80th Birthday

Luton South Division celebrates

Luton South Division held a fun activity Garden Party on 14th June 2006 to celebrate the Queens 80th Birthday. Over 150 Girls of all ages joined in the fun making visors to wear and edible bonnets, they played parachute games and took part in a campfire. A good time was had by all and they even toasted the Queen with birthday cake and non alcoholic pink champagne.

Sue Champkins

Division Commissioner Luton South Division



Brownies celebrate

The 3rd and 5th Leighton Buzzard Brownies recently joined together for a special evening to celebrate the Queen's 80th Birthday. During the event the Brownies had a trail to find the lost Crown Jewels, designed new jewellery for the Queen, made birthday cards and designed a birthday medal (iced biscuit). The cards and jewellery designs were sent to Buckingham Palace and a letter of thanks has been received.

Debbie Docherty